



Bluffton Police Department

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Phone SCAM Targeting Bluffton Residents

What:

Phone Scam

Where:

Bluffton

When:

Currently

In the last several days, the Bluffton Police Department has received complaints from residents regarding a phone scam.

The scam involves a person calling a home, cell phone or business, and saying they represent the IRS. The person then tells the resident they owe back taxes, and if it isn't paid, an officer will arrest them. The scammer then states the late balance can be settled by buying an iTunes or Target gift card in the amount owed.

"What is concerning, somehow the Bluffton Police Department phone number is appearing on the residents' caller IDs who are receiving these calls. We want the public to know the Bluffton Police Department will not call you on behalf of another agency and threaten to arrest you if a payment isn't made," said Bluffton Police Chief Joey Reynolds.

According to IRS.gov the IRS will never:

- 1) Call to demand immediate payment.
- 2) Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount.
- 3) Require you to use specific payment method.
- 4) Threaten to bring in local police or other law enforcement groups to make an arrest.

If you receive a phone call like this, hang up, and call the IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting phone number at 1-800-366-4484. You should also report it to the Federal Trade Commission at www.FTC.gov.

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